

## British Coal Barons Fight Nationalization

Several Dukes and Earls Appear at Investigation to Defend Their Rights to Royalties From Mines

Union President Scores

Robert Smillie Plays Role of Chief Inquisitor at Commission's Inquiry

New York Tribune Special Cable Service (Copyright, 1919, New York Tribune Inc.) LONDON, May 11.—The Coal Commission's examination of British peers reached its most interesting stage yesterday with several dukes and earls giving testimony. There still are signs that things are moving toward some form of nationalization of the mines.

The title holders of the richest coal fields in England appeared before the commission to defend their rights in what may be the last-ditch fight of the British land barons. The scene in the royal robing room of the House of Lords recalled the days of the Spanish Inquisition and almost was a parallel to that enacted at Versailles, only here the heads of the richest and oldest titled families in England sat in the place of the Germans.

There was the same horsehoe, the coal commissioners being seated around a semi-circular table, while the land owners sat at a small table at the foot. Crowded into the inadequate space of the robing room were all manner of curious witnesses, many of them of the proletariat, rejoicing in the spectacle of their discomfited enemies.

Smillie Chief Investigator At the head of the horsehoe sat Commissioner Sankey; at his right Sir Leo Chiozza Money, twitching nervously in his chair and occasionally asking a question of a witness. At Sankey's left was Robert Smillie, president of the Miners' Federation, "the most powerful man in England to-day," immaculate in light tweeds. Smillie was the principal inquisitor.

Lords Durham, Dymor and Dunraven, three of the most powerful coal barons, looked ill at ease. Baron Dymor wasn't sure where he got the right to his land or how much the output of coal was, but he admitted that nationalization had once been put in practice when Henry VIII beheaded Lord Dymor's ancestor and seized the lands.

Lord Dunraven also was uncertain on many points of his testimony. He admitted he hadn't probed into antiquity to find his right to work the mines on certain public lands.

Lord Durham was extremely alert, but apparently met his match in Smillie. The miners' president didn't play the role of fire-eater expected of him. He didn't leap to his feet haranguing. Rather, he met the earl at his own game of wits, parrying, quoting Blackstone and Dilbe to prove that Lord Durham had no right to own the land. The earl retorted angrily.

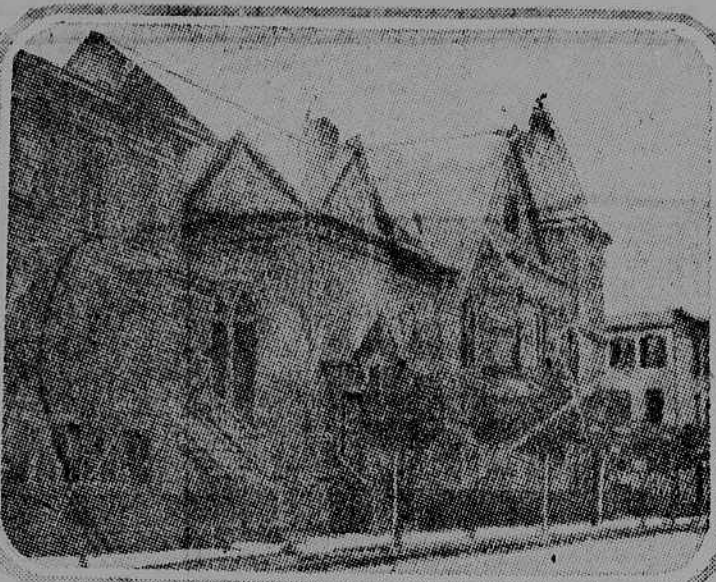
Housing Conditions Discussed The inquiry developed into an investigation of the housing condition of the Durham tenants, the earl asserting they were comfortable and happy. He gave figures showing that the royalties on his coal, together with rent for shafts, railways, etc., amounted to approximately \$300,000 in 1913 and \$300,000 in 1918. The royalty and rents in 1913 approximated 11 cents a ton more than in 1918, but heavy taxes cut down the profits.

Lord Dunraven confessed his inability even to pronounce the names of many of his buildings. The hearing reached its most interesting stage when several dukes gave evidence. The Duke of Northumberland and Smillie had a battle royal. The Duke scored a most a dialectical success, but he made admissions that seemed in Smillie's favor. For instance, he admitted, in reply to a question by Sir Leo Chiozza Money, that as a coal mine owner he performed no service to the community. A statement of his possessions showed he owns 170,000 acres and has mineral rights over 244,000 acres. Last year, after deducting all taxes and duties, he drew nearly \$120,000 in royalties.

Northumberland Retires Smillie put a series of searching questions, answers to which showed Northumberland's ignorance of housing conditions and general inattention to the welfare of his tenants. The duke, icy and unperturbed, indicated he had a small opinion of the commission. He took the firmest stand on the question of nationalization, saying he regarded it only as a step toward a general socialization of industry. He finally became restless under the attacks of Smillie and retired.

The next peer, the Marquis of Lon-

## CHURCH AND PASTOR TO AID EVICTED



donderry, scored the best points for the case of the royalty holders when he explained he worked his own mines, took a close personal interest in them and wished to continue so doing. He declared for individualism and the rights of private property.

The inquiry is developing daily duels, with Smillie and Sir Leo Chiozza Money scoring heavily with their humanitarian arguments against the landowners. The commission's report, which is to appear in about a week, will render a decision.

## National Union Of Tenants Is Started Here

Continued from page 1

sued by the new union," he said, "will be the collective method. We will organize the tenants in unions just as the various trades are organized, and the federated unions of tenants in the various states will ask for special sessions of the legislatures to empower each city to issue bonds for the erection of municipal tenements to be operated by the cities and rented at cost."

Cooperation Committee Named

Samuel Shore, manager of the White Goods Workers' Union, presided at the meeting. Mr. Shore, with David Brodsky and Meyer Abramson, were appointed a committee of the United Hebrew Trades to establish a basis of cooperation with the Tenants' Union, the Brooklyn Tenants' Union, the Greater New York Tenants' Union and the Consumers' League.

In Brownsville, where 167 dispossession actions are on the calendars of the two parts of the Seventh District Municipal Court for this morning, the rent situation showed symptoms of settling down to a normal basis. There were indications that the tenants' union and the landlords' organization were approaching an understanding.

Evictions Are Halted City Marshal David Goldberg, who was to evict more than forty tenants from a house on Hilsdale Street this morning, received visits from many of



the tenants, who deposited with him their arrears in rents, thus halting the eviction proceedings. Tenants in a house at 534 Powell Street, who were so incensed at rent advances a few weeks ago that they partly wrecked the place, seemed anxious to reach an understanding with the landlord.

Captain Charles A. Goldsmith, of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, said after an inspection of the Bronxville district, that he considered the situation much improved. He held possibilities of danger still, he said, but plainly was on the mend.

Nathan Hirsch, chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, said the Committee on Mediation and Conciliation, which was formed with Mayor Hylan's consent, was responsible in no small measure for the solution of difficulties.

At least six important cases which were submitted to this new committee by the respective landlords and tenants have been solved, he said, to the satisfaction of all.

"Everything," he said, "will be done to bring about a good understanding between landlords and tenants, and because I believe a lot of landlords do not want to be held up to publicity and are ready to negotiate with their tenants, who see that expenses have risen and are ready to pay a little more rent, I think the rent problem is in a fair way of being solved."

Mr. Hirsch added that of course this did not do away with the "necessity

of housing," which was the only means by which the problem could be settled for all time.

Mrs. Henry Moskowitz, of the State Reconstruction Commission, said there had been no further development in the rent situation yesterday, but that the commission would cooperate in the investigation on housing conditions by the Legislative committee.

This committee has announced that it will begin its first session on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock in the Board of Estimate room at City Hall. Senator Charles C. Lockwood, chairman of the committee, announced that Mayor Hylan, Mr. Hirsch and Abram I. Elkus, chairman of the Reconstruction Commission, would be invited to appear.

The Legislative committee has offices at 531 Fifth Avenue. Despite the brighter aspect which the Brownsville situation assumed, arrangements were completed to throw open the Williams Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in that district today to the scores who were expected to be homeless as the result of dispossession proceedings. A detail of police has been assigned to the church to maintain order in case the applicants for shelter are too numerous or too impatient.

## Labor Federation Won't Join in Strike for Debs

Vice-President Duncan Declares Protest Is Not Sanctioned by Organization

The American Federation of Labor will not cooperate in the proposed nationwide protest strike for the release of Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist leader, from the penitentiary. The strike has been set by the Socialist party and radical labor organizations for July.

James Duncan, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, said yesterday that any strike demanding Debs' release will be without the sanction of the federation. It was admitted, however, that many of the unions, which have promised to strike, are affiliated with the federation. Mr. Duncan thought the strike demonstrations planned for Debs will be only "spasmodic outbursts with which organized labor will have nothing to do."

Because of what the papers in the case term "an illegal boycott," it is charged that several hundred trucks, representing an investment of \$1,000,000, have been rendered idle, and a volume of business said to exceed \$3,000,000 a year closed to the operators.

"During the winter of 1918 and the

## Court to Rule On Open Shop Labor Policy

Transportation Trades Council Named by Truck Owners for 'Interference' With Longshoremen

Injunction Is Granted

Unions Summoned to Show Cause Why It Shouldn't Be Made Permanent

For the first time since the United States entered the war the aid of the New York courts has been invoked in a labor dispute. The Truck Owners' Association has asked the Transportation Trades Council into the Supreme Court of Kings County to show cause why it and its members should not be restrained from interfering with the open shop policy insisted upon as a matter of right by the truck owners.

On the petition of P. Reardon, Inc., a member of the association, Justice Van Sicken has granted a temporary injunction and ordered the officers of the transportation council to appear on Wednesday and show cause why the injunction should not be made permanent. Joined with the union as defendants are Walker D. Hines, as head of the United States railroad administration; the International Mercantile Marine and various steamship companies subsidiary to it. The unions making up the transportation council are locals of the International Longshoremen's Association, made up of checkers, weighers and receiving clerks on various railroad and steamship piers.

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"During the winter of 1918 and the

present spring," says the complaint, "various attempts were made by the Transportation Trades Council and its affiliated locals to unionize the teamsters and stable forces of the plaintiff. The plaintiff's employees were contented with their wages and conditions and rejected these overtures to enter the union fold. At about the same time intimations were received by the plaintiff and its officers that it would be advantageous to the plaintiff and might avert future trouble for it to sign a union agreement and insist upon the unionization of the employees. No attention was paid to these implied threats.

"Substantially every pier in the city of New York and every steamship or other vessel entering or departing from the port of New York is closed to the plaintiff, and it is wholly unable to deliver any merchandise to or receive any merchandise from these vessels or upon these piers; the plaintiff is unable to truck bonded merchandise in the custody of the United States government from bonded warehouses to vessels or to vessels of war and army supplies intended for overseas shipment by the United States government; the plaintiff is, and for approximately two weeks has been, wholly incapable of carrying on its transfer business in discharging its lawful function as a common carrier in interstate commerce, for the reason that the embargo declared by the defendant has been made effective against through freight as well as that of local origin; merchandise worth millions of dollars belonging to customers of plaintiff has remained for days, and much of it still remains on piers subject to perils of fire, storm and insurance cancellations, and merchandise of like character and value intended for export or foreign shipment has been similarly delayed, with consequent loss to all concerned; perishable and urgent freight have, in many instances, been held up with severe financial loss to the owners."

Paul Bonynge, counsel for the truckmen, said yesterday: "A number of checkers have orders from the union to disregard the injunction order and are defying it openly. As soon as the papers can be issued they will be held in contempt of court. This is a clear case of master and servant."

Mr. Bonynge said that union workers on Piers 42 and 67, North River, in the employ of the Panama Railroad Steamship Line, refused on Friday to accept goods of P. Reardon, Inc., and were discharged.

## 22 American Women Decorated by France

All Served During War in Hospital at Buzancy, Says Letter Just Received

Twenty-two women who served in the American Women's Hospital No. 1, at Buzancy, France, throughout the war, have been decorated by the French government, and the entire staff of the hospital has been given the freedom of the city of Buzancy. This information was received yesterday by Mrs. Charlotte M. Conger, executive secretary of the American Women's Hospitals, 837 Madison Avenue.

The medals have been presented to: Dr. Dolan Kinney, Miss Alice M. Clark, Miss Florence Eadie and Mrs. Sarah O'Brien, New York City; Dr. Louise Hurrell, Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. Charlotte Fairbanks, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Dr. Kate Doherty, Milwaukee, Wis.; Dr. Margaret Ethel Fraser and Miss Ruth Caldwell, Denver, Col.; Dr. Mary MacLachlan, Portland, Ore.; Dr. I. J. Manwaring, Norwich, Conn.; Dr. Inez C. Bentley, Kings Park, N. Y.; Dr. Olga Stastney, Omaha, Neb.; Dr. Edna Ward, Littleton, Col.; Mrs. Emilie Lanoir-Lehman and Miss Lillian W. Pettongill, Philadelphia; Miss Ada Tobitt, Darlington, Penn.; Miss E. Pauline Whitaker, Lancaster, Penn.; Miss Margaret Purvis, Atlantic Highlands, N. J.; Miss Emily S. Cheney, Manchester, Conn., and Miss Wilhelmina Drummond, Atlanta, Ga.

## Two Killed by Autos Woman in Corona and Boy in Yonkers Are Victims

Two persons were killed by automobiles in and near New York yesterday. Eliza Denander, fifty-three years old, was walking across Alburts Avenue, Corona, early yesterday morning, when she was run down by a machine driven by Louis Gallucci, of Corona, formerly Assistant District Attorney of Queens. She was killed instantly.

John Zelenak, nine years old, of 46 Croton Terrace, Yonkers, was struck while crossing Nepperhan Avenue, by an automobile operated by G. A. Heller, of 447 Walnut Street, Yonkers. The boy died. Heller was arrested on a charge of manslaughter.



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